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MEDIA ADVISORY

Ambassador Bryza Praises International Solidarity against Terror at Commemoration of 10th Anniversary of 9/11 Attacks

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Ambassador Matthew Bryza today hosted an official commemoration of the tenth anniversary of the September 11, 2001 terror attacks on New York City and Washington D.C.. Government of Azerbaijan officials, led by Deputy Foreign Minister Hafiz Pashayev, diplomatic representatives of Coalition partners fighting in and rebuilding Afghanistan, as well as countries providing essential transportation support to international efforts in Afghanistan and assisting the fight against terror also attended the ceremony, which was held at the U.S. Embassy in Baku.

Ambassador Bryza laid a wreath to the memory of all those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the fight against terror. A U.S. Naval Forces Europe Military Band performed Taps in honor of the fallen.

Ambassador Bryza praised the solidarity that has emerged since the attacks, telling attendees that thanks to shared efforts, all nations have emerged safer. Bryza told attendees that, "As an international community, we have shown that terrorists and the ideological extremists who drive them are no match for the strength and resilience of our citizens."

Ambassador Bryza recalled that, while working in the White House on 9/11, less than 24 hours after the attacks he received word that President Heydar Aliyev had offered

the United States unlimited over flight permission for non-military aircraft. “That immediate expression of solidarity meant a great deal to all of us in the White House that day, including our President,” Bryza said, “Thanks to Azerbaijan, we knew we would not stand alone, but in solidarity with friends who reached out to us at our greatest moment of need.”

Bryza praised Azerbaijan and other ISAF contributing nations for their contributions in Afghanistan. He noted Azerbaijan and neighboring nations’ key role in the transport of non-lethal supplies to support the international security and rebuilding effort in Afghanistan. To highlight this contribution, a moment of silence was also observed for the crew of the Silk Ways Airline plane that crashed upon approach to Bagrem Airport in Afghanistan on July 6, 2011, killing five Azerbaijanis and four Uzbeks.

In addition to Deputy Foreign Minister Pashayev, Ministry of Defense, Minister of Interior, and other government officials attended the ceremony.

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